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# FACT SHEET

## DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE: ADVANCING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."

-President George W. Bush, Inaugural Speech, January 20, 2005

### Democracy and Governance in Context

It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in the world – a central theme of President Bush's Freedom Agenda. Championing freedom is a national security imperative and is the most effective long-term measure for strengthening international stability, reducing regional conflicts, countering terrorism and terror-supporting extremism, and extending peace and prosperity. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) strengthens democratic governance rooted in the **rule of law**; promotes more genuine and competitive **elections and political processes**; increases the development of non-government, independent **civil society**; and ensures more transparent and accountable **governance**. The President has more than doubled funding for democracy, governance, and human rights programs since taking office, and his Budget continues to increase funding in these areas. The Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request strengthens governance and the rule of law and fosters independent media, democratic political parties, voter education, election monitoring, and human rights. The Fiscal Year 2009 Budget requests \$1.72 billion for these activities, up from approximately \$1.36 billion in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$650 million in Fiscal Year 2001.

### Democracy and Governance Achievements

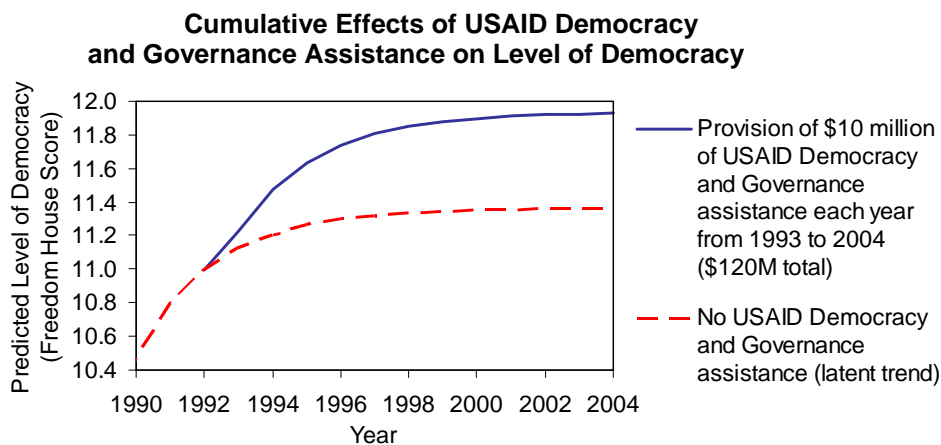
- **Sudan:** In support of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), USAID is assisting the nascent Government of Southern Sudan to form effective and accountable core government institutions and systems. USAID provided technical assistance to assist the South in conducting its portion of the 2008 national census—a key CPA milestone that lays the foundation for 2009 national elections—and continues to support census data analysis. USAID has also supported the organizational development of political parties so they may effectively compete in the elections.



- **Afghanistan:** With USAID assistance, Afghanistan has made significant strides toward democracy since the fall of the Taliban. In five years, the country has drafted a new constitution and democratically elected a president, National Assembly, and provincial councils. Going forward, USAID support will focus on building the capacity of democratic institutions to strengthen governance and civil society.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** USAID was a key contributor to the UN sponsored elections of 2006. USAID and its partners helped build the capacity of parliamentarians to draft legislation, advise the administrators, and inform the citizenry in this vast country's first democratic exercise in over 40 years.
- **Ukraine:** Over a decade of multi-sectoral assistance to Ukraine helped build democratic institutions and processes that contributed to the Orange Revolution in 2004. Ukraine continues to progress forward on its democratic trajectory, with competitive political processes, an active and vibrant civil society, and more pluralistic media.

### Democracy and Governance Assistance Works

A recent study conducted by a prestigious team of researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Vanderbilt University examined democratic patterns in 165 countries throughout the world from 1990 to 2004, and found that USAID democracy and governance assistance had a significant positive impact on democratic development. The study, "Deepening our Understanding of the Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building," concludes that, in any given year, **\$10 million dollars** in USAID Democracy and Governance funding produces approximately a **five-fold increase in the amount of democratic change** over what the average country would otherwise be expected to achieve.



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